

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 INT-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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P R 261250Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7962

INFO USMISSION

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, USUN, IN

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: INDIAN VIEWS ON KEY ISSUES AT
NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

REFERENCE 204517

1. EMBOFFS MET MEA UN DIVISION DIRECTOR, VINAY VERMA, AUGUST 25 TO REVIEW INDIAN PERCEPTIONS OF NON-ALIGNMENT SUMMIT RESULTS. VERMA WAS INDIAN DELEGATE IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND DRAFTING GROUP.

2. NORTH KOREA: VERMA DESCRIBED SITUATION IN DRAFTING GROUP WHEN DRAFT RESOLUTION CAME UP FOR DISCUSSION. FINAL PLENARY SESSION HAD ALREADY BEGUN AND PRESSURE OF TIME WAS INTENSE. DRAFTING GROUP SPENT ONE HOUR AMENDING FIRST PARAGRAPH OF NORTH KOREAN DRAFT, FIGHTING AGAINST KOREANS INSISTENCE THAT THE LANGUAGE REMAIN UNTOUCHED. AT THE END OF THIS EXERCISE, THE PARAGRAPH HAD BEEN AMENDED "BEYOND RECOGNITION". KOREAN INTRANSIGENCE, HOWEVER, COMBINED WITH LATE HOUR MADE A CONTINUATION OF THIS EFFORT IMPOSSIBLE. VERMA CONCLUDED THAT "IF WE HAD HAD TWO MORE HOURS, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE TEXT WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH CHANGED".

3. ACCORDING TO VERMA'S RECORDS, TWENTY-FIVE COUNTRIES HAVE
ESERVED ON THE KOREAN RESOLUTION. THIS INCLUDES BOTH RESERVA-
TIONS ANNOUNCED IN DRAFTING GROUP AND AT FINAL FOREIGN MINISTERS
MEETING, AND THOSE WHICH HE KNOWS WERE SUBMITTED IN WRITING. (HE
PERSONALLY DELIVERED LETTER TO SECRETARY GENERAL OF CONFERENCE
MORNING OF AUGUST 20 RECORDING INDIA'S RESERVATIONS ON KOREA,
PUERTO RICO, EAST TIMOR AND LAND LOCKED.)
KOREAN ITEM WAS CLEARLY THE MOST DISIVE ISSUE AT THE CONFERENCE,
VERMA SAID, AND RESOLUTION DID NOT REPRESENT A UNAIMITY OF VIEWS
OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE CONFERENCE. HE RECALLED THAT FOREIGN
MINISTER CHAVAN HAD INTERVENED IN FINAL DEBATE TO CALL ATTENTION
TO SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS BEING ANNOUNCED AND
RAISE "QUESTION OF PROCEDURE" (AS VERMA DESCRIBED IT) AS TO
WHETHER CONSENSUS EXISTED. LOOKING TOWARDS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
HE THOUGHT THERE WAS LITTLE PROSPECT THAT ADOPTION OF THE NORTH
KOREAN TEXT AT COLOMBO COULD SERVE AS RALLYING POINT FOR PRO NORTH
KOREA POSITION IN NEW YORK. NORTH KOREAN NEGOTIATING TACTICS
AND LOBBYING EFFORTS HAD WON IT NO FRIENDS IN COLOMBO.

4. PUERTO RICO: VERMA SAID CUBAN PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO POLITICAL
DECLARATION AND PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION WERE DEBATED BRIEFLY IN
DRAFTING GROUP. WHEN DECLARATION TEXT CAME UP YUGOSLAVIA AND ONE
OR TWO OTHER STATES EXPRESSED OBJECTION TO LANGUAGE REGARDING
NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT. CHAIR PROPOSAL THAT IT BE DELETED
SPURRED NO FURTHER DEBATE. LANGUAGE IN CUBAN DRAFT CALLING FOR
VISIT OF UN MISSION TO PUERTO RICO WAS SIMILARLY DROPPED. AT THAT
POINT CHAIRMAN ASKED YUGOSLAVIA AND CUBA TO GET TOGETHER TO DRAW
UP REVISED TEXT.

5. DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS TAKEN UP IN CLOSING HOURS OF DRAFTING
GROUP. YUGOSLAVIA, INDIA AND SRI LANKA SPOKE OUT IN OPPOSITION TO
THE TEXT IN TOTO. VERMA THOUGHT OTHER STATES MIGHT ALSO HAVE
OBJECTED, BUT CHAIR MOVED AT THAT POINT THAT RESOLUTION BE DROPPED
AND REPRESENTATIVE OF PUERTO RICO SOCIALISTIC PARTY ACCEPTED.
VERMA FELT THE CUBANS BACKED OFF SO QUICKLY BECAUSE THEY REALIZED
OPPOSITION WAS WIDESPREAD AT CONFERENCE. VERMA RECALLED THAT
SIMILAR EFFORT TO HAVE SEPARATE RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO HAD
FAILED AT LIMA CONFERENCE A YEAR AGO. AS IT WAS, EVEN WITH SIGNI-
FICANT DELETIONS, 17 COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO VERMA'S COUNT, HAVE
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EXPRESSED RESERVATION ON POLITICAL DECLARATION TEXT. VERMA COM-
MENTED "LOOK AT WHO WE HAVE JOINED" IN ENTERING RESERVATION, AND
CALLED ATTENTION TO ABSENCE OF ANY OTHER SOUTH ASIAN STATE
FROM LIST AS HE HAD IT.

6. ISRAELI EXCLUSION: VERMA HAD BEEN AWARE THAT AN EARLY PRO-
POSAL SUBMITTED IN THE NAME OF THE ARAB GROUP INCLUDED EXPLICIT
CALL FOR EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UN. IT WAS WELL KNOWN,

HOWEVER, THAT THIS DID NOT REPRESENT A UNIFIED ARAB POSITION AND THAT OPPOSITION TO SUCH A MOVE WAS WIDESPREAD. WHEN MATTER CAME UP FOR DISCUSSION IN THE DRAFTING GROUP; ONLY IRAQ AND SYRIA SPOKE IN FAVOR. THE LANGUAGE WAS CHANGED TO CONFORM TO THE LIMA FORMULA.

7. MEMBERSHIP: VERMA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT INDIA HAD ARGUED THAT "CRITERIA" APPLIED TO GUEST STATUS AS WELL AS OBSERVER STATUS AND FULL MEMBERSHIP. SUPPORT FOR ROMANIA, PHILIPPINES AND PORTUGAL WAS VERY STRONG, "INDEED OVERWHELMING," AND INDIAN DEL CHOSE NOT TO STAND IN THE WAY OF CONFERENCE DECISION.

8. PRESS POOL: VERMA SAID DRAFTING GROUP HAD TAKEN "THIRTY SECONDS" ON LAST DAY TO ACCEPT LANGUAGE FOR POLITICAL DECLARATION AND "ABOUT HALF THAT TIME" TO ADOPT RESOLUTION.

9. LEADERSHIP: VERMA SAID INDIAN DELEGATION WORKED HARD ON THE MANY ISSUES IN WHICH IT HAD A SPECIAL INTEREST AS WELL AS ON OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES BEFORE THE CONFERENCE. IT WAS TRUE, HOWEVER, THAT IT HAD NO PARTICULAR POLITICAL OBJECTIVES IN MIND AND WAS NOT ACTIVE IN SUBMITTING PROPOSALS. AS FOR THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INDIAN DELEGATION AND THOSE OF YUGOSLAVIA AND SRI LANKA, HE SAID THAT "WE WORKED CLOSELY WITH THEM" BUT AVOIDED ANY IMPLICATION OF PURPOSEFUL COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.
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